



LMAC (Land Management and Acquisitions Committee)

Meeting Notes - July 17, 2018

Present:

Members: Casey Webster; Chris Kittredge; David Gagnon

Members to be appointed: Fred Farber and John Adelman

Liaisons: Michael Vance, FLT President; Caleb Hemphill, Town Council and Karen Jacobsen, Conservation Commission

Council Liaison: Ted Asherman, Town Council

Staff: Amanda Stearns, Open Space Manager and Lucky D'Ascanio, Parks and Community Programs Director

1. Call to Order – Amanda called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30.
2. Election of Chairman – After some discussion, the election of a chair was postponed until the August meeting.
3. Introduction of Members – All present at the meeting introduced themselves and the “to be appointed” new members were welcomed.
4. Approval of Minutes – The minutes of May 8 and May 15, 2018 were approved unanimously with a motion by Casey and a second by Chris.
5. Blackstrap Canoe Launch – Lucky announced that it had just been confirmed that the project that would cause the launch to close this summer has been postponed until next year. The announcement has been removed from the website.
6. Falmouth Center Project – Amanda gave an overview of the project and an update of the status. This project has been before the Council several times and requires some zoning amendments to support the plan as presented by the developer. The interest to LMAC is due to the location of the parcel, being in the Mill Creek watershed and adjacent to the Falmouth Nature Preserve. General comments from the members included:
 - a. Council has received a lot of push back regarding the soccer fields proximity to the residential neighborhood to the east.
 - b. Council has indicated to the developer at their July 9 meeting that they need to return with the comprehensive master plan for the whole project and it is in the developer's court to return to the town with an amended proposal.
 - c. Concern over the threatened nature of Mill Creek and the possibility of becoming an impaired stream. The current regulations and restrictions were discussed and concluded that there could be more stringent requirements for the development to avoid deterioration of or improve the current status.
 - d. Should there be consideration of the open space being restricted with conservation easement?
 - e. If the project moves forward, the protection of the Mill Creek watershed should be high on the list as well as trails and trail connections to build on a trail network in the growth area.

It was concluded that Amanda will keep track of the status of the project and if a revised proposal is submitted to the Council prior to the August meeting it will be placed on the agenda. In addition, if that happens Amanda will contact the developer to request a site walk for the Conservation Commission, FLT Board and staff and LMAC.

7. Open Space Manager's Report – Amanda reported out on the following items:
 - a. Autumn Way – a trail license has been executed for a 90 day trial period. Staff and volunteers are preparing the trail and will be notifying the public and trail user groups as soon as the trail opens.
 - b. Other connections are being discussed and there is favorable progress on a few key connections.
 - c. Open Space Plan – the public input session was held on June 27 with very little attendance. LPAC+ used the opportunity to discuss modifications. It is slated to bring the plan to the Council in September.
 - d. Stewardship Program – began research into current status and plan to have an outline ready for review in August
 - e. Regional efforts – Wrote a support letter for a key parcel in Cumberland, which will improve regional trail connectivity and habitat corridors.
 - f. Continuing to work on current grant paperwork for closure.
8. Other business – Lucky shared that the DEP was looking to install test equipment on the Presumpscot River and she is working with them to find a suitable location. The draft position statement for the spraying of invasives was circulated to the committee to keep them up to date with this issue.
9. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 am.